

Dec 40 -

A. B. Reese to send your next letter to Ash-
Blount Co Ala Feb 24. 1853 -

Mr Samuel W. Collins

Dear Sir.

I wrote two weeks
since & sent it. I wrote you last week & still have
it with me as I have had no safe opportunity to
mail it. It rained last Sunday & the three succeeding
days - The waters are higher in this section of country
than they have been for several years - Monday I
drove 18 miles & had no creek to swim - Tuesday 26 miles.
In the morning I sum my horse & brot my wagon over
upon a canoe - About sunset I came to a creek that
was rapid & swirling - I could get no help or boat
of any kind - I had but one alternative to go back or
go through - I took my trunk before me upon my two
hands & landed safely - then my remaining furniture & the
my wagon thus I swam it six times - Wednesday 7 miles
It rained tremendously - I was at Asheville - I tried to
get someone to help me across Canal Creek but no one would
attempt it. In the evening the bridge which had been cov-
ered through the day was swept off which rend it
impossible to cross - I then went down the creek 10 miles
to a ferry - I was there as early as one o'clock - I could get
no one untill 3 o'clock - The ferryman was about 8 hours -
It was the most rapid creek I ever passed - They did not manage
right & we went down a stream at the rate 10 rods an hour
The old man was frightened but could do nothing but yell -
I took the helm to show a tree that must have burst
or have - My horse was behind the wagon - The old Gent planted
his foot upon the fore end of my wagon caught a limb to stop the
boat - Pushing the wagon back cleared my horse so he jumped
over board - I was like to have drowned by being caught in

brushes - I was hindered till dark - I have drawn one
creek since with all my baggage - I have traveled only 110
miles this week - There is a prospect however of better
times - The first stone I came to this week was 30 miles
South of Ashville in Shelby-co. It & W^m Cameron
are the owners - They commenced ~~several~~ years since -
Their business is moderate - They buy in Mobile - of
Shelly & of James Hall & Co - He was going down
that week - He promised to get some if there were
any - if not to send by steel (of Elliston) to ship
for some - I circulated about 50 bills for him -
I have no doubt but he will get them - Says he
can sell 20 Dg for an - I think he will sell 5 Dg -
Ashville Capt of St Clair Co is 113 miles from Tussem
breen 75 from Wilsons hill - It has 5 dry good stores -
They all do a respectable business - of 5 or 6000 & each -
It is W^m Byers introduced your axes 2 years since -
They have sold Collins Morgans & Simmonds - He had
he had concluded not to get any but Collins & Co in
future - There had been many complaints of the
imitations - Says he can sell 10 Dg for an - Says
of Wm. H. Smith N.Y. - This is a respectable firm -
Moses Dean has done business 6 years in it - He has sold
3 Dg ^{3 1/2 Dg} of Collins & Co - 1 returned - Therefore mark. S.
It was too soft - I think it was the Polishers or grinders
fault - I told him the same - He sold it at cost in a
few minutes after - He buys of Wm. H. Smith N.Y. - He
goes on in March & will get at least 6 Dg - These two
houses are all who have kept any now - All intend
buying this Spring - The thing is big in Ashville
for Collins & Co I know - I would suppose that
from 25 to 30 Dg would be sold usually -
hears much about in the Tennessee & Kentucky

1-694	12-584
3-594	1-5
5-514	

These are all the stores I have seen - I intended
to have crossed the Mts by way of Blounts
ville. But the Bridge ^{is} washing ^{away} much it impos-
sible - I am now 18 miles beyond Blounts ville.
I think I shall not go back - It is a poor
miserable place of business - I shall send a
circulars to the two merchants by a trustworthy hand
I found yesterday two or three handbills set
up that I had given to men 200 miles from
here - I shall reach Huntsville if Prospered next
Saturday - 140 miles this way I shall travel -
You will see I have not visited any part of the
Creek nation - That is going to be a grand
market for us as is the Cherokee & Choctaw
The Cherokees have not consented to sell their
lands - But the States of Geo & Ala have extended
their laws over their whole Territory - They have allowed
whites to settle on all the unsettled lands - The whites
have every advantage & the Indians have none
The whites who were in the Nation & who first pushed
in after the new laws are of the coarsest vilest class
of human beings - The Indians must move or
be exterminated - I will in a few months be ~~correctly~~
taken by whites - A route through these lands (Indian
lands) should be made on horse back - It cannot be
done with a wagon - It will be the best time to do
it next summer or fall - The Choctaw lands will
soon be settled throughout - The market in Ala
& Geo & Missisipi will for several years be just
increasing - Timber - At least 1/4 of all Ala
is covered with fine White & Yellow Pine -
White oak Post & red oak is plentiful

the inside length of eye nearly
as long as my sample of over
1/16 more in width. the mean of about
Outside length & width the same. General men
have just come in with many more, has been
a high since the last, how have settled.

Knights for 100 Dg — Of each in Mobile I import a sort
 them thus — 25 Dg — $\frac{1}{2}$ — $\frac{1}{4}$ — $\frac{1}{8}$ — $\frac{1}{16}$ — $\frac{1}{32}$ — $\frac{1}{64}$ — $\frac{1}{128}$ — $\frac{1}{256}$ — $\frac{1}{512}$ — $\frac{1}{1024}$ — $\frac{1}{2048}$ — $\frac{1}{4096}$ — $\frac{1}{8192}$ — $\frac{1}{16384}$ — $\frac{1}{32768}$ — $\frac{1}{65536}$ — $\frac{1}{131072}$ — $\frac{1}{262144}$ — $\frac{1}{524288}$ — $\frac{1}{1048576}$ — $\frac{1}{2097152}$ — $\frac{1}{4194304}$ — $\frac{1}{8388608}$ — $\frac{1}{16777216}$ — $\frac{1}{33554432}$ — $\frac{1}{67108864}$ — $\frac{1}{134217728}$ — $\frac{1}{268435456}$ — $\frac{1}{536870912}$ — $\frac{1}{1073741824}$ — $\frac{1}{2147483648}$ — $\frac{1}{4294967296}$ — $\frac{1}{8589934592}$ — $\frac{1}{17179869184}$ — $\frac{1}{34359738368}$ — $\frac{1}{68719476736}$ — $\frac{1}{137438953472}$ — $\frac{1}{274877906944}$ — $\frac{1}{549755813888}$ — $\frac{1}{1099511627776}$ — $\frac{1}{2199023255552}$ — $\frac{1}{4398046511104}$ — $\frac{1}{8796093022208}$ — $\frac{1}{17592186044416}$ — $\frac{1}{35184372088832}$ — $\frac{1}{70368744177664}$ — $\frac{1}{140737488355328}$ — $\frac{1}{281474976710656}$ — $\frac{1}{562949953421312}$ — $\frac{1}{1125899906842624}$ — $\frac{1}{2251799813685248}$ — $\frac{1}{4503599627370496}$ — $\frac{1}{9007199254740992}$ — $\frac{1}{18014398509481984}$ — $\frac{1}{36028797018963968}$ — $\frac{1}{72057594037927936}$ — $\frac{1}{144115188075855872}$ — $\frac{1}{288230376151711744}$ — $\frac{1}{576460752303423488}$ — $\frac{1}{1152921504606846976}$ — $\frac{1}{2305843009213693952}$ — $\frac{1}{4611686018427387904}$ — $\frac{1}{9223372036854775808}$ — $\frac{1}{18446744073709551616}$ — $\frac{1}{36893488147419103232}$ — $\frac{1}{73786976294838206464}$ — $\frac{1}{147573952589676412928}$ — $\frac{1}{295147905179352825856}$ — $\frac{1}{590295810358705651712}$ — $\frac{1}{1180591620717411303424}$ — $\frac{1}{2361183241434822606848}$ — $\frac{1}{4722366482869645213696}$ — $\frac{1}{9444732965739290427392}$ — $\frac{1}{18889465931478580854784}$ — $\frac{1}{37778931862957161709568}$ — $\frac{1}{75557863725914323419136}$ — $\frac{1}{151115727451828646838272}$ — $\frac{1}{302231454903657293676544}$ — $\frac{1}{604462909807314587353088}$ — $\frac{1}{1208925819614629174706176}$ — $\frac{1}{2417851639229258349412352}$ — $\frac{1}{4835703278458516698824704}$ — $\frac{1}{9671406556917033397649408}$ — $\frac{1}{19342813113834066795298816}$ — $\frac{1}{38685626227668133590597632}$ — $\frac{1}{77371252455336267181195264}$ — $\frac{1}{154742504910672534362390528}$ — $\frac{1}{309485009821345068724781056}$ — $\frac{1}{618970019642690137449562112}$ — $\frac{1}{1237940039285380274899124224}$ — $\frac{1}{2475880078570760549798248448}$ — $\frac{1}{4951760157141521099596496896}$ — $\frac{1}{9903520314283042199192993792}$ — $\frac{1}{19807040628566084398385987584}$ — $\frac{1}{39614081257132168796771975168}$ — $\frac{1}{79228162514264337593543950336}$ — $\frac{1}{158456325028528675187087900672}$ — $\frac{1}{316912650057057350374175801344}$ — $\frac{1}{633825300114114700748351602688}$ — $\frac{1}{1267650600228229401496703205376}$ — $\frac{1}{2535301200456458802993406410752}$ — $\frac{1}{5070602400912917605986812821504}$ — $\frac{1}{10141204801825835211973625643008}$ — $\frac{1}{20282409603651670423947251286016}$ — $\frac{1}{40564819207303340847894502572032}$ — $\frac{1}{81129638414606681695789005144064}$ — $\frac{1}{162259276829213363391578010288128}$ — $\frac{1}{324518553658426726783156020576256}$ — $\frac{1}{649037107316853453566312041152512}$ — $\frac{1}{1298074214633706907132624082305024}$ — $\frac{1}{2596148429267413814265248164610048}$ — $\frac{1}{5192296858534827628530496329220096}$ — $\frac{1}{10384593717069655257060992658440192}$ — $\frac{1}{20769187434139310514121985316880384}$ — $\frac{1}{41538374868278621028243970633760768}$ — $\frac{1}{83076749736557242056487941267521536}$ — $\frac{1}{166153499473114484112975882535043072}$ — $\frac{1}{332306998946228968225951765070086144}$ — $\frac{1}{664613997892457936451903530140172288}$ — $\frac{1}{1329227995784915872903807060280344576}$ — $\frac{1}{2658455991569831745807614120560689152}$ — $\frac{1}{5316911983139663491615228241121378304}$ — $\frac{1}{10633823966279326983230456482242756608}$ — $\frac{1}{21267647932558653966460912964485513216}$ — $\frac{1}{42535295865117307932921825928971026432}$ — $\frac{1}{85070591730234615865843651857942052864}$ — $\frac{1}{170141183460469231731687303715884105728}$ — $\frac{1}{340282366920938463463374607431768211456}$ — $\frac{1}{680564733841876926926749214863536422912}$ — $\frac{1}{1361129467683753853853498429727072845824}$ — $\$

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**Cyrus Hawley letter to Samuel W. Collins, February 24, 1833
C-Misc 24, Box: 1, Folder: 18. Miscellaneous manuscripts
collection, C-Misc. Middlebury College Special Collections
& Archives.**

Transcription by Eric Stroman

Note: this is a line by line transcription.
I have strived for accuracy in respect to original spelling, case and punctuation.
All errors are the sole fault of the transcriber.

No. 40. N.B. Please to send your next letter to Nashville
Blount Co Ala Feb 24. 1833.
Mr Samuel W. Collins

Dear Sir.

I wrote two weeks
since & sent it. I wrote you last week & still have
it with me as I have had no safe opportunity to
mail it. It rained last sunday & the three succeeding
days. The waters are higher in this section of country
than they have been for several years. Monday I
drove 15 miles & had no creeks to swim. Tuesday 26 miles.
In the morning I swum my horse & brot my wagon over
upon a canoe. About sunset I came to a creek that
was rapid & swimming. I could get no help or boat
of any kind. I had but one alternative to go back 3 miles
to go through. I took my trunk before me upon my hos
and landed safely. Then my remaining furniture & then
my wagon thus swam it six times. Wednesday 7 miles.
It rained tremendously. I was at Ashville. I tried to
get someone to help me across Canoe Creek but no one would
attempt it. In the evening the bridge which had been cov
ered through the day was swept off which made it
impossible to cross. I then went down the creek 10 miles
to a ferry. I was there as early as one oclock. I could get
no one out until 3 oclock. The ferriman was about shaved.
It was the most rapid creek I ever jumped. They did not manage
right & we went down stream at the rate 10 nots an hour.
The old man was frightened but could do nothing but holler.
I took the helm to shun a tree that must have burst
our boat. My horse was behind the wagon. The old gent planted
his foot upon the foreend caught a limb to stop the
boat. Pushing the wagon back scared the horse so he jumped
over board and like to have drowned by being caught in

bushes. I was hindered till dark. I have swam one
 creek since with all my luggage. I have traveled only 110
 miles this week. There is a prospect however of better
 times. The first store I came to this week was 30 miles
 south of Ashville in Shelby Co. T. & W. Cameron
 are the owners. They commenced severall years since.
 Their business is moderate. They buy in Mobile of
 Holly & and of James Hall & Co. He was going down
 that week. He promised to get some if there was
 any, if not to send by Steel (of Elliton) to Nyk
 for some. I circulated about 50 bills for him.
 I have no doubt but he will get them. Says he
 can sell 20 Doz pr an. I think he will sell 5 Doz.
 Ashville east of St Clair Co is 103 miles from Tusca
 loosa 75 from Wilsons Ville. It has 5 dry goods stores.
 This all do a respectable business of 5 or 6000\$ each.
 A. & A.W. Byers introduced your axes 2 years since.
 They have sold Collins Morgans & Simmonds. He said
 he had concluded not to get any but Collins & Co in
 future. There had been many complaints of the
 imitations. Says he can sell 10 Doz pr an. Buys
 of Wm. R. Smith Nyk. This is a respectable firm.
 Moses Dean has done business 6 years in A. He has sold
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 It was to soft. I think it was the Pollishers or Grinders
 fault. I told him the same. He sold it at cost in a
 few minutes after. He buys of W.R. Smith Nyk. He
 goes in March & will get at least 6 Doz. These two
 houses are all who have kept any axes. All intend
 buying this spring. The thing is fixed in Ashville
 for Collins & Co I know. I would suppose that
 from 25 to 30 Doz would be sold annually. 1-6 2-5¼
 heavy heads it was in Ala Tennessee & Kentucky 3-5¼ 1-5
 5-5½

These are all the stores I have seen. I intended to have crossed the Mts by way of Blounts Ville. But the bridge washing away made it impossible. I am now 15 miles beyond Blounts Ville. I think I should not go back. It is a poor miserable place of business. I shall send a circular to the two merchants by a trusty hand. I found yesterday two or three handbills Tct. up that I had given to men 200 miles from here. I shall reach Huntsville if prospered next Saturday. 140 miles this way I shall travel. You will see I have not visited any part of the Creek nation. This is going to be a grand market for axes as is the Cherokee & Choctaw. The Cherokees have not consented to sell their lands. But the states of Geo & Ala have extended their laws over their whole Territory. They have allowed whites to settle on all the unsettled lands. The whites have all the advantage & the Indians have none. The whites who were in the Nation & who first pushed in after the new laws are of the lowest vilest class of human beings. The Indians must move off or be exterminated. It will in a few months be completely taken by whites. A route through these lands (Indian lands) should be made on horseback. It cannot be done with a wagon. It will be the last time to do it next summer or fall. The Choctaw lands will soon be settled throughout. The market in Ala Geo & Mississippi will for several years be fast increasing. Timber. At least 1/4 of all Ala is covered with White & Yellow Pine. White oak Post & red oak is plentiful

in every part of Ala. Chestnut is found to a considerable extent. Then there is a sprinkling of Hickory Beach Ash Maple Black Gum & etc. Timber is about the common size except in some parts by Rivers & Creeks & some of the rich lands in the center of the State where it grows to an uncommon size. I am with unfeigned respect yrs.
Cyrus Hawley

[docketed]
Cyrus Hawley
No. 40. Feb. 24th. 1833.
Blount Co. Alabama
Replied Nashville &
enclosed \$100 March 15
1833

[blue circle date stamp] **[addressed to]** **[rate]**
SOMERVILLE ALA 25
FEB (illegible) Samuel W. Collins
Collinsville
Hartford Co
Connecticut

There is plenty of Hickory for ax helms but it is not as tough as farther north. The white men rarely want an ax weighing over 6lbs. Many of the Planters for Slaves want axes 7 6½ 6 heavy heads even a little more than to Collinses the blade.

Weights for 100 Doz. If sold in Mobile I would apportion them thus.

	25 Doz	1- 7	3- 5¼	25 Doz		50 Doz	
many Planters buy in Mobile		1- 6½	3- 5½	1- 6½	4- 5½	2- 6	1- 5
many Planters prefer the loosest assortment		2- 6	2- 5	1- 6¼	4- 5¼	3- 5¾	
				1- 6¾	1- 5	5- 5½	
				2- 5		1- 5¼	

If the inside length of eye was 1/4 inch longer than my Sample ax & and 1/16 more in width they would suit better Outside length & width the same. Several men just came in who say watter never has been so high since the County has been settled.